

THE CAMBRIDGE NATURAL HISTORY: INSECTS.

The fifth volume of the Cambridge Natural History (Macmillan) treats of Peripatus, Myriapods and a portion of the Insects, the other portion being left for another volume. The insects are done by Dr. David Sharp, but the present volume contains only the Aptera, Orthoptera, Neuroptera, and a part of the Hymenoptera. The classification of the orders adopted is given on pp. 172-173, and differs but slightly from the old Linnean divisions, while the classifications proposed by Packard and by Brauer are fully explained and acutely criticised. No explanation whatever is given of the low position assigned the Hymenoptera in the series adopted, which seems wholly indefensible. Apart from this, the work promises when completed to be the most useful introduction to the study of insects which exists, and it is a veritable storehouse of interesting facts. Nothing but praise can be given to the method, the execution and the judicious attitude of the writer; it is, moreover, a very readable book, couched in excellent English. As a general rule it is very equal in excellence, though some points are elaborated with more care than others equally important; while the woodcuts are numerous, largely new, admirably executed, and distinctly illustrative of the text. Four introductory chapters treat respectively of the external structure, the internal structure, the development of the individual and classification; in the first, the treatment of the venation and of the genital armor is unsatisfactory, these subjects being dismissed in a very few words. The several orders are next taken up, first as a whole, and then family by family, the order of subjects treated being in general that of the introductory chapters, followed by remarks on the distribution of the insects in question both in space and time, and closing in some cases with a table of genera. It is well up to date. References are abundant and sufficient, and we have noted but exceedingly few inaccuracies.

Figs. 45 and 46 are wrongly credited. Altogether it is a most desirable book for the entomologist's library.

THE GRAND PRIZE for the physical sciences has been awarded by the French academy of sciences to Mr. Charles Brongniart for his recent work on fossil insects of Commenyry.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

10 Jan., 1896.—The 189th meeting was held at 156 Brattle St., Mr. S. Henshaw in the chair.

Messrs. Justin W. Folsom and Herbert V. Neal, both of Cambridge, were elected to active membership.

The several annual reports were read.

The following officers for 1896 were chosen: President, H. S. Pratt of Haverford, Penn.; secretary, R. Hayward; treasurer, S. Henshaw; librarian, S. H. Scudder; members at large of the executive committee, A. P. Morse and S. H. Scudder.

Messrs. Henshaw and Scudder were appointed a committee with full powers, to revise the list of exchanges of the Club at the close of vol. 7 of *Psyche*.

Mr. S. H. Scudder exhibited the American and European species of *Podisma* in his collection and drew special attention to the apterous forms, which were represented in America by two species possessing a tympanum on the sides of the first abdominal segment; while in Europe there were not only two species with a tympanum but five species without, all found at high altitudes or latitudes. One of our species, best known from Mt. Washington, N. H., has also been found at high elevations in Maine, Massachusetts and New York, and at Sudbury, Ontario; in the latter place at the general level, though Sudbury itself has a considerable elevation; the second American species has only been found near Ithaca, N. Y., at less than 500' above the sea. The species of *Podisma* generally, both winged and apterous, were usually found at high levels, generally above or near the forest line.